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1/16/2014 Minutes of Special Meeting on Master Plan Transportation element

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 1/16/14 Special Meeting to discuss Master Plan Transportation Element,
5:30 to 7:00 pm; Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Howard Muise, Scott Smith, Ed Starr,
Richard Turcotte, Laura Wiener

Members of the Public Present: Adam Auster, Mark Kaepplein, Carol Kowalski

Consultants present: Ted Brovitz, Mike Tremblay, Keri Pyke, Judi Barrett

- Laura opened the meeting with introductions. Ted Brovitz noted that a new draft of the Transportation Element of the Master Plan has been circulated, incorporating many of the comments they received. Scott added that the #87 bus was not included.
- Priorities, Issues and Opportunities
 - Traffic Congestion
 - Lake Street congestion between Mass. Ave. and Route 2
 - Pleasant Street congestion between Mass. Ave. and Route 2
 - Congestion along Route 16 causes back up on Mass. Ave. and Broadway.
 - Alewife congestion affects Arlington. Buses and cars take too long getting in and out.
 - Developments in Cambridge and Belmont will have an impact on Arlington
 - Current TAC studies addressing congestion—Lake St, Jason St. cut through traffic, Mass./Jason/Mill St., CLAMP
 - Transit issues
 - Green Line Extension—Arlington supports termination at Route 16/Boston Ave.
 - Opportunities for improvement include bus signal prioritization, bus lanes, real time information
 - Methods to improve bus mobility through congestion at Alewife Station
 - Underserved areas—no connection to Belmont.
 - Buses and transit are radial (e.g, on Mass Ave to/from Cambridge/Boston) congestion is mostly circumferential (streets that cross Mass Ave) with respect to downtown Boston.
 - Pedestrian Issues
 - Sidewalks in poor condition. Some areas have no sidewalks at all, including around Thompson and Stratton Schools
 - Crossing of Mystic Valley Parkway at Medford Street
 - Bike issues

- Gap in bikeway in Arlington Center
 - Traffic signals that don't respond to bikes.
 - Crossings of bikeway at Mill St. and Lake St.—safety and congestion
 - A few one way streets could use contraflow bike lanes. Examples include Swan St and possibly Foster Street.
 - Condition of bikeway
 - Lighting of bikeway
 - Poor connection between bikeway and commercial districts (lost economic development opportunities)
 - Commercial districts unwelcoming to bicyclists
- Parking
 - Heights needs a study of existing parking
 - Improved parking management
 - Arlington Center lot--bad management practices and signage
- Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Materials:

- Arlington Center Baseline Report/Transportation—Draft 2.0
- Town of Arlington Preliminary Issues and Opportunities Map—1-16-2014 Working Draft
- Transportation and Mobility Indicators